

Appl. No. 10/615,859
Amdt. dated June 30, 2005
Reply to Office Action of June 1, 2005

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application and the rejection of claims 1-12 are respectfully requested. Applicant has attempted to address every objection and ground for rejection in the Office Action dated June 1, 2005 (Paper No. 20050528) and believes the application is now in condition for allowance.

Applicant again requests Examiner acknowledgement and consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement filed January 18, 2005 with the contents of a European Search Report.

Claims 1-12 stand subject to a restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

- I. Claims 1-9 drawn to a water softening method; and
- II. Claim 10-12 drawn to a water treatment apparatus.

Applicant traverses this rejection. First, the Examiner has not demonstrated that a search of all of the claims would be unduly burdensome. See, MPEP §803. In fact, not only has the Examiner failed to make any assessment of the burdens of a search of all of the claims, the Examiner has already searched all of the claims and has issued a substantive Official Action mailed December 7, 2004.

Next, Applicant has amended claim 10 to include the method steps of claim 1 and to recite, among other things as being a water softening apparatus. Thus, as amended, claim 10 is recited as being configured for practicing the method of claim 1. As such, the restriction requirement is respectfully submitted to be moot.

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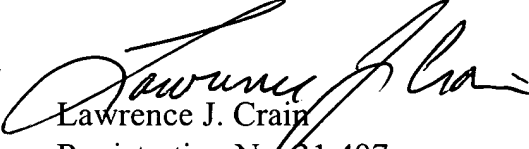
In the event the Examiner maintains the requirement, Applicant elects claims 1-9 (Group I) with traverse.

Applicant submits that in view of the above-identified amendments and remarks, all of the issues raised in the Official Action of June 1, 2005 have been addressed. Allowance of the rejected claims is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner discover there are remaining issues which may be resolved by a telephone interview, he is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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